

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7952

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

UNCLAS ANKARA 4827

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TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

PRESS RELEASE

REF: ANKARA 4807

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE PREPARED BY THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY (NCAFP) AND CLEARED BY PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT AND FOREIGN MINISTER OKCUN.

BEGIN TEXT

PREIME MINISTER BULENT ECEVIT, ON HIS SECOND DAY IN OFFICE, MET JUNE 22 IN THE CABINET MEETING ROOM WITH TWELVE (12) MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF FORMER AMBASSADOR ANGIER BIDDLE DUKE AND CO-CHAIRMAN JEFFREY K. ENDERVELT, A NEW UNCLASSIFIED

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YORK LAWYER AND BUSINESSMAN.

PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT, IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM AMBASSADOR DUKE FOR A MESSAGE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, SAID: 'WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO OUR FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND CONTINUING COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES... WHEN WE ARE IN OFFICE THERE MAY BE OCCASIONS WHEN YOU

MAY FIND US SOMETHING OF A DIFFICULT ALLY BUT YOU WILL REALIZE, I'M SURE, THAT THIS WILL BE SO MUCH THE BETTER FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES...BECAUSE WHEN THE TURKISH PEOPLE DEVELOP THE SLIGHTEST FEELING THAT THERE IS A SHADOW OVER OUR INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION, THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE PSYCHOLOGICAL REACTION. BUT WHEN THERE IS AN ADMINISTRATION IN TURKEY ABOUT WHICH THE TURKISH PEOPLE ARE SURE, WE WILL HAVE A FREER HAND IN STRENGTHENING TURKISH-AMERICAN COOPERATION IN MANY WAYS.

THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS DEVELOPING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY MUST NOT DEVELOP INTO EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS. WE HAVE ALWAYS ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS, NOT ONLY WHILE IN OFFICE, BUT ALSO IN OPPOSITION AND DURING THE RECENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN.'

ACCORDING TO AMBASADOR DUKE, THE MEETING, THE FIRST THE NEW PRIME MINISTER HAS CONDUCTED WITH A FOREIGN DELEGATION, LASTED OVER AN HOUR, DURING WHICH MR. ECEVIT'S COMMENTS AND ANSWERS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED BY THE DELEGATION WERE EXTREMELY FRANK, OPEN AND WIDE-RANGING.

MR. ECEVIT, COMMENTING ON THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE STATED THAT HE BELIEVES '...IN THE MERIT OF THE PRIVATE CITIZEN CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT IS DEMOCRATIC BUT BECAUSE WITH THE PRIVATE CITIZEN'S CONTRIBUTION THAT POLICY BECOMES A MORE HUMANE UNCLASSIFIED

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FOREIGN POLICY AND A MORE COHERENT FOREIGN POLICY.'

THE COMMITTEE WAS FUNDED IN 1974 TO STIMULATE CITIZEN INTEREST IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF EUGENE F. FOLEY, A FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE. PRIOR TO MEETING WITH MR. ECEVIT, THE COMMITTEE MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GUNDUZ OKCUN. MR. OKCUN TOOK THE OCCASION TO COMMENT WARMLY ON THE HUMANE AND MORAL CONTENT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S FOREIGN POLICY. HE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE OPEN DIPLOMACY OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

FOLLOWING THE MEETING THE EMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WERE THE FIRST OFFICIAL GUESTS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY MR. OKCUN AT THE FOREIGN GUESTS RESIDENCE. MR. OKCUN WAS JOINED BY OTHER HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

THE COMMITTEE IS ON A SIX NATION, 16-DAY FACT-FINDING MISSION TO GREECE, TURKEY, IRAN, SYRIA, EGYPT AND ISRAEL. THE DELEGATION HAS ALREADY MET WITH PRESIDENT TSATSOS AND FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS OF GREECE AND WENT TO TEHRAN JUNE 23 FOR MEETINGS WITH THE SHAH AND OTHER IRANIAN GOVERNMENT LEADERS. FROM TEHRAN, THE COMMITTEE WILL GO TO

DAMASCUS AND CAIRO WHERE THEY WILL ALSO MEET WITH HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, CLOSING OUT THEIR MISSION WITH A VISIT TO ISRAEL AND A MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET.

UPON THEIR RETURN TO NEW YORK ON JULY 5, THE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT ONE ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, ROOM 2400 AT 2:00 P.M. THEREAFTER THE DELEGATION WILL ISSUE ITS FULL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP. END TEXT.

2. FOR TEHRAN: PLEASE PROVIDE COPY OF THIS RELEASE TO MR. JEFFREY ENDERVELT OF THE NCAFP AND ADVISE HIM IT WAS RELEASED TO PRESS IN ANKARA AFTERNOON OF JUNE 24.

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